

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A backlight device, ~~in particular for a liquid crystal display, which comprises~~ display, the backlight device comprising several lamps disposed within a housing, whereby each lamp comprises a part that can be cooled so as to obtain a good light output, ~~characterized in that the aforesaid parts of the lamps extend~~ the part extends through the wall of the housing into a channel through which air can flow.

2. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ backlight device as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said lamps are tube-like fluorescent tubular lamps, which extend into the channel with at least one end.

3. (Currently Amended) A The backlight device as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized by further comprising a fan for generating an air flow through the channel.~~

4. (Currently Amended) A The backlight device as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterized in that extend said fan extracts air from the channel, or blows air into the channel, as the case may be, at a location between two parts of the aforesaid lamp parts.~~

5. (Currently Amended) A The backlight device as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized by further comprising a sensor for measuring the temperature of the part of a lamp that extends into the channel.~~

6. (Currently Amended) A The backlight device as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein the channel comprises a wall which is provided with a recess between two parts of the aforesaid lamp parts so as to allow air to pass therethrough.~~

7. (Currently Amended) A The backlight device as claimed in

claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the housing of the lamps forms a dustproof space, and ~~in that the aforesaid wherein the wall~~ abuts against the lamp in a substantially dust-tight manner at the a location where the lamp extends through said wall.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A The~~ backlight device as claimed in claim 7, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said wall comprises a flexible material, which abuts against the lamp.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A The~~ backlight device as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the housing abuts against a diffuser plate in a dust-tight manner.

10. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display comprising a the backlight device as claimed in claim 1.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of lighting a liquid crystal display, ~~which display that~~ includes a backlight device which comprises several lamps disposed within a housing, whereby each lamp comprises a part that can be cooled so as to obtain a good

light output, ~~characterized in that the aforesaid parts of the~~  
~~lamps extend wherein the part extends through the wall of the~~  
housing into a channel through which air flows.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein said  
lamps are ~~tube-like fluorescent tubular~~ lamps, which extend into  
the channel with at least one end.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, ~~wherein by a~~  
~~fan for further comprising~~ generating an air flow through the  
channel.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said  
fan extracts air from the channel, or blows air into the channel,  
~~as the case may be, at a location between two parts of the~~  
~~aforesaid lamp parts.~~

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, ~~wherein a~~  
~~sensor for further comprising~~ measuring the temperature of the part  
of a lamp that extends into the channel.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the channel comprises a wall which is provided with a recess between two parts of the aforesaid lamp parts so as to allow air to pass therethrough.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the housing of the lamps forms a dustproof space, and ~~in that the~~ aforesaid wherein the wall abuts against the lamp in a substantially dust-tight manner at the a location where the lamp extends through said wall.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said wall comprises a flexible material, which abuts against the lamp.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the housing abuts against a diffuser plate in a dust-tight manner.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein

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comprising a backlight device as claimed in claim 11 the display is  
a liquid crystal display.